

## Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 STR-04 CEA-01 FTC-01 JUSE-00 SEC-01 /100 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3196

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 21354

FOR AMBASSADOR MYERSON/GENEVA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, UN, ECOSOC, FR

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC: U.S. PROPOSAL ON ILLICIT  
PAYMENTS

REF: STATE 179170

1. MINECON TODAY DISCUSSED WITH FROMENT-MEURICE,  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, MFA, USG  
CONCERN THAT U.S. RESOLUTION FOR DRAFTING INTERNATIONAL  
AGREEMENT TO CONTROL ILLICIT PAYMENTS MIGHT BE SIDE-  
TRACKED AT CURRENT ECOSOC MEETING BY AGREEMENT TO  
SUBSTITUTE A GENERAL STUDY OF CORRUPT PRACTICES.

2. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO FROMENT-MEURICE THAT USG HAS  
TAKEN SERIOUSLY UNGA CALL FOR EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL  
ACTION; THAT CONGRESS HAS ALREADY ENACTED LEGISLATION  
CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION AND PRESIDENT FORD  
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HAS INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO SEEK ADDITIONAL LEGISLA-

TION TO MAKE EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE U.S. DOMESTIC LAW; WE THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MUST ALSO BE A BASE FOR EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION AND PRESIDENT FORD HAS ENDORSED NOTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE; TO SUBSTITUTE A STUDY WOULD BE LOSS OF CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE READINESS COOPERATE IN EFFORT RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM AND MIGHT BE REGARDED AS DELIBERATE EFFORT TO STALL; SINCE PROPOSAL IS REALLY ONE TO NEGOTIATE, OUR PROPOSAL IS BASICALLY PROCEDURAL AT THIS POINT, BEING DESIGNED TO CREATE MECHANISM FOR SOLUTION OF PROBLEM.

3. FROMENT-MEURICE RESPONDED THAT WHILE HE WAS GENERALLY FAMILIAR WITH U.S. PROPOSAL, SUCH UN MATTERS WERE NOT IN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. HE TOOK NOTE, HOWEVER, OF OUR EXPRESSION OF CONCERN, AND SAID HE WOULD PASS IT ON TO INTERESTED QUAI OFFICIALS.

4. MINECON NOTED THAT SAINT-LEGIER, QUAI DIRECTOR OF UN AFFAIRS, WITH WHOM U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN RECENT MONTHS, IS CURRENTLY ON VACATION SO WE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DISCUSS THE CURRENT ECOSOC SITUATION WITH HIM. WHILE WE HAVE HAD NO RPT NO RESPONSE FROM GOF TO OUR EARLIER REQUEST THAT GOF BE CO-SPONSOR OF OUR RESOLUTION, WE HAVE GAINED IMPRESSION FROM SAINT-LEGIER'S OFFICE THAT GOF DELEGATION WOULD NOT RPT NOT OPPOSE U.S. PROPOSAL.

5. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS AND REPEATED THAT HE WOULD CONVEY OUR CONCERN TO THOSE INTERESTED. HE ASKED WHAT THE ATTITUDES OF THE LDC'S MIGHT BE, SAYING HE WAS ASKING BECAUSE OF HIS LIMITED FAMILIARITY WITH THE BACKGROUND OF THIS QUESTION AND BECAUSE HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY MIGHT FEEL UNEASY ABOUT SUCH AN AGREEMENT. MINECON SAID HE COULD NOT RPT NOT GIVE A NOSE COUNT AS TO POSITION VARIOUS LDC'S BUT REITERATED POINT THAT UNGA HAD MADE AN APPEAL FOR ACTION AND OUR FEAR WAS THAT TO AGREE TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY INSTEAD OF GOING FORWARD ON U.S. DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR DRAFTING AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO CONTROL ILLICIT PAYMENTS WOULD BE REGARDED CONFIDENTIAL

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AS DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO AVOID TAKING ACTION FOR WHICH UNGA HAD CALLED.

6. EMBASSY ALSO MADE DEMARCHES, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER CONVERSATION WITH FROMENT-MEURICE, TO QUAI ACTING UN DIRECTOR BEAUX. LATTER TOOK CAREFUL NOTE, BUT SAID ONLY THAT GOF HAS SOME "IDEAS" OF ITS OWN ON THIS SUBJECT WHICH ARE, HOWEVER, NOT NECESSARILY INCOMPATIBLE

WITH U.S. PROPOSAL. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS HIM  
CONCERNING QUAI INSTRUCTIONS TO FRENCH ECOSOC REP, WHO  
SEEMS TO HAVE FAIRLY WIDE LATITUDE UP TO THIS POINT.  
GAMMON

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